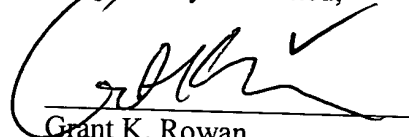


PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
CPA of U.S. Appln. 09/242,490

REMARKS

Entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Grant K. Rowan', is written over a horizontal line.

Grant K. Rowan

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Date: April 30, 2002

APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

✓
The claims are amended as follows:

20. (Once amended) An ink supply passage structure comprising:

a first ink supply path having a first open end, wherein said first ink supply path axially terminates at the first open end;

a second ink supply path connected to and extending from the first open end to be communicated with the first ink supply path, wherein the second ink supply path is at least as large in cross sectional area as the first ink supply path, and the first open end of the first ink supply path forms an axial terminus of the second ink supply path; and

a protrusion and/or groove axially provided to the second ink supply path, wherein the protrusion and/or groove is contiguous to at least the first open end of the first ink supply path,

wherein the first ink supply path axially terminates at a longitudinal axis of the first ink supply path, and

wherein the longitudinal axis of the first ink supply path is substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of the second ink supply path.